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20 August 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Personnel

SUBJECT : Interview with [ ] NSC Detailee, and  
Staff Members of the House Select Committee on  
Intelligence

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1. This morning I accompanied [ ] to her interview with staff members of the House Select Committee on Intelligence. On the drive to the Cannon Building, [ ] remarked that she had received very little counsel on what questions to expect and what she should or should not answer, except that an NSC officer (Mrs. Davis' assistant, I believe) had cautioned her not to divulge details of her work at the Council. I told her that [ ] advised me that the Committee's staff members are cleared, that their questions should be answered as directly, honestly and succinctly as possible, but that sources, methods and names of agents should not be disclosed. I suggested that she not rush into answering, and respond with as much brevity as possible - without elaboration or embellishment.

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2. We were greeted by Ms. Emily Sceketoff who identified herself as an investigator. After a short delay to locate and prepare a meeting room, Ms. Sceketoff escorted us to Representative Aspin's office. (I mention this only because the space was "acoustically unsatisfactory". The Congressman was not present, of course, but his staff was, and we were separated only by a thin semi-partition. When the questions began, the typewriters stopped and I sensed we could easily be overheard.) Ms. Sceketoff asked me for my name and "function"; I identified myself as a Personnel Officer. [ ] was given a small brochure entitled "Select Committee on Intelligence - Rules and Security Regulations"; she was told she could keep it, but was not offered time to read it then. Ms. Sceketoff advised us that her staff was seeking information about the "Detail Program" and attempting to establish the relationships between the CIA and the NSC; that the meeting was intended to be informal; that [ ] might some day be called to give sworn testimony before the Committee; that, depending upon the information it compiled, the Committee might propose legislation to change the entire NSC-detailee arrangement. Ms. Sceketoff noted that another staff member would be joining us a little later, and then referred to a typewritten list of questions.

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Neither [ ] nor I took notes during the meeting, but to the best of my memory the questions and responses were as follows:

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Q: What kind of check do you receive?  
DB: Just a regular Government check.

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Q: Do you have any additional information that might be helpful, or any questions?  
DB: No, I haven't.

With that Mr. Field thanked us, reminded us that sworn testimony might be required later, and again remarked that the Committee might propose legislative changes on the "Detail Program". He noted that I was scheduled to return Friday afternoon (22 August) with four detailees, and said that he would be on leave then but that Emily Scekotoff would probably be joined by another Staff member. The interview lasted approximately 30 minutes.

After Mr. Field's arrival, the tone of the meeting was more relaxed and informal. He is a skillful interviewer, bright, articulate, and charming. Persons more naive and less shrewd than [ ] could be his prey. Ms. Scekotoff is another matter. She is not skilled in interviewing and lacks poise; she was not hostile, but gave the impression of being biased and less than objective, and made one feel uncomfortable; she is probably bright and certainly anxious to appear brilliant; acerbity is her strong suit. In the absence of Mr. Field and his moderating influence, I am prepared for a different atmosphere in future meetings.

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I was very proud of [ ] I could tell that her one moment of uncertainty came when she was asked to identify other detailees, but even then she did not lose her poise and her response was measured. She handled herself beautifully in a ticklish situation.

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[ ]  
Chief, Clerical Staffing Branch

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